

identifying a candidate time within the duration of time spanned by the set of audiovisual content based on an evaluation of the identified cue, the candidate time representing a possible starting and/or ending time of a commercial.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the abstract with the following rewritten abstract:

The invention enables identification of starting and ending times of commercial breaks, as well as starting and ending times of commercials within those commercial breaks, to be found in audiovisual content (e.g., a television broadcast) using a method having characteristics which overcome disadvantages of previous commercial detection approaches. The invention is implemented as a solution to a "batch optimization" problem in which commercial locations within a set of audiovisual content are detected as a group by choosing a set of commercial locations which optimizes a cost function which can include consideration of, for example, 1) one or more of many types of visual recording, audio recording and/or closed-captioning cues, 2) relative locations of commercials within the audiovisual content, and/or 3) probability models based on statistics obtained regarding characteristics of typical commercial and commercial breaks (e.g., commercial and commercial break duration, separation times of commercials and commercial